

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EUR-12 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W

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R 191440Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8264

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, OVIP, TS

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RETURNS FROM VACATION

REF: TUNIS 375

1. SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 19, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RETURNED TO TUNIS FROM HIS MONTH-LONG VACATION IN FRENCH ALPS AND IN GENEVA. DESPITE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT HIS HEALTH HAS NOT BEEN GOOD, HE APPEARED VIGOROUS AT AIRPORT WHERE HE PRAISED PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA'S MANAGEMENT OF TUNISIAN ECONOMY. PRESS ACCOUNT OF ARRIVAL ALSO CARRIED STATEMENT THAT PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED UNTIL GREAT POWERS REACHED ACCORD AND US PRESSURED INTRANSIGENT ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 19, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RETURNED FROM HIS MONTH-LONG VACATION IN MEGEVE, FRANCE, AND IN GENEVA. AT AIRPORT WELCOMING HE TOLD PRESS, WHICH LATER DESCRIBED HIM AS "OVERFLOWING WITH VITALITY" AND "GLOWING WITH HEALTH," THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CALLED RECENT FINANCIAL TIMES OF LONDON AWARD OF "OSCAR" TO TUNISIA FOR PERFORMANCE AGAINST INFLATION A TRIBUTE TO HEDI NOUIRA. PRESS ACCOUNT OF ARRIVAL ALSO CARRIED REMARKS BOURGUIBA HAD MADE TO SWISS TV THAT PEACE COULD NOT

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BE ACHIEVED IN MIDDLE EAST UNTIL THE TWO SUPER POWERS

REACHED ACCORD AND THAT PEACE WOULD REMAIN DISTANT  
UNTIL THE US USES ITS WEIGHT TO PRESSURE AN INTRANSIGENT  
ISRAEL.

3. BOURGUIBA TOLD PRESS AT AIRPORT THAT HE HAD MOVED  
FROM MEGEVE TO GENEVA BECAUSE HE WAS NOT SLEEPING WELL  
AT HIGH ALTITUDE AND BECAUSE HE NEEDED A MEDICAL CHECK-  
UP.

4. COMMENT: BOURGUIBA'S REVELATION TO PRESS THAT HE  
HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN SLEEPING WELL AT HIGH ALTITUDE  
WAS CONFIRMED EARLIER TO AMBASSADOR BY SEVERAL TUNISIAN  
OFFICIALS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT. RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT  
PRESIDENT HAS SUFFERED RELAPSE AFFECTING HIS MENTAL  
CAPACITIES ARE PROBABLY UNTRUE. HIS VIGOROUS DEMEANOR  
AT AIRPORT SUGGESTS, AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT HE IS  
READY TO RECEIVE BELGIAN KING AND QUEEN ON STATE VISIT  
FEBRUARY 21-24. PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM VACATION HAS  
ALSO GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION THAT CABINET CHANGE IS  
IMMINENT, WITH MOST ATTENTION FOCUSING ON MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TUNIS01033  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TUNIS 375  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA RETURNS FROM VACATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, OVIP, TS, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006